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Cuckfield Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1958

BY

D. M. RICHARDSON

M.R.C.S., ENG., L.R.C.P., LOND., D.P.H., ENG.

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Charles Clarke (Haywards Heath) Ltd.

1959

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1958.

The Crude Death Rate is 16.82, and this figure, when adjusted, gives a Corrected Death Rate of 9.25, which compares with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 16.39, as compared with 22.5 for the country as a whole and with 13.89 for 1957.

During the period covered by this Report my predecessor, Dr. Stott, who has recently retired, was still Medical Officer of Health for the area. I will endeavour to include in this report those matters which I consider he would have wished to bring to your notice.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Although the County Council has been responsible for the administration of this scheme since 1948, the County Medical Officer has delegated the duties, in connection with local arrangements, to your Medical Officer of Health. Towards the end of 1957 the County Medical Officer intimated that proposals for centralising the service were to be considered by the County Council's Health and Housing Committee, as it was felt that there would be a saving in expense if the scheme were administered from County Hall.

Dr. Stott wrote to the County Medical Officer of Health giving details of the local arrangements and suggested that the centralising of the service would, in his opinion, lead to extra expense and might cause considerable inconvenience to all concerned. The County Council agreed to the service being administered locally, for the time being, but suggested that the matter be reconsidered when Dr. Duke retired. In November, 1958, matters were brought to a head when the immunisation clerk resigned and it became necessary to transfer all diphtheria immunisation records to County Hall. The local arrangements for actual immunisation, however, remained unchanged and Dr. Duke continued to attend clinics until he and Dr. Stott retired at the end of February, 1959.

Prior to the appointment of Dr. Stott's successor, it was suggested by the County Medical Officer that the new District M.O.H. should devote 3/11ths (three half-days) of his time to County duties. This, it was claimed, would enable the District M.O.H. to carry out diphtheria immunisation and other work for the County, if required, within his district. This policy was approved by the three District Councils concerned and came into force in May, 1959.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

In this district vaccination is mainly carried out by the family doctors. We have every reason to believe from figures available in 1957 that, compared with the country as a whole, parents in Mid-Sussex are still fairly conscious of the importance of vaccination against smallpox.

One fortunately hears very little of this disease at the present time, but an occasional case is still imported from abroad and causes considerable anxiety in the area in which it occurs. The best protection against smallpox is undoubtedly vaccination, and the public are reminded that in many countries a certificate of recent vaccination must be produced before entry is permitted. Parents who, for some reason or other, are anti-vaccinationist in their attitude or merely forget to have their children vaccinated, are also reminded that, although the risks of primary vaccination in infancy are very small indeed, the risks attaching to primary vaccination at a later age are increased, particularly during adolescence and early adult life. In view of the increasing prevalence of air travel, both for business and pleasure, it is worth while remembering that vaccination is now an essential requirement in many countries subscribing to the World Health Organisation. The child whose parents have had the foresight to arrange for primary vaccination in infancy may well have reason to be grateful to them in adult life should he be required to travel to any country where successful vaccination is an essential prerequisite of entry.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The County Medical Officer of Health administers this Scheme and my department co-operates by distributing leaflets and forms and also by giving information to parents on request. Full particulars will, no doubt, appear in the Report of the C.M.O.H.

In October, 1958, the scheme was extended and became available to all people, up to and including those of 25 years of age, and to all Expectant Mothers.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria

Again there were no cases of diphtheria during the year. In England and Wales the total number of notifications was 61 and the number of deaths 8.

Whooping Cough

Thirteen cases of whooping cough were notified compared with 72 last year. There were no deaths. This has been the best year since 1953 when 3 cases were notified. In England and Wales there were 7,921 cases notified and 27 deaths. It is interesting to compare the mortality figures with that of diphtheria. In recent years whooping cough and measles would seem to have superseded diphtheria as a cause of death in young children. The mortality rate from whooping cough has, however, fallen considerably over the years and the number of deaths from this disease is only 1/27th of the figure for 1948, when there were 748 fatal cases in England and Wales. Mass immunisation and improvements in medical treatment have undoubtedly been the main contributory factors in reducing the number of deaths from this disease.

Measles

Only 23 cases were notified as compared with 385 in 1957. There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever

There were three notifications of scarlet fever as compared with five in 1957. This disease is often so mild that cases may easily pass unrecognised.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were 2 cases of poliomyelitis during the year. The first case, a male adult, occurred in March and was admitted to the isolation hospital with partial

paralysis of one arm. Subsequent progress was satisfactory, and I understand that there is now very little residual disability. The second case occurred in October in a residential nursery. The child was admitted to Cuckfield Hospital for observation and when it was learned, by this department, that poliomyelitis was suspected your M.O. visited the nursery and arranged for certain precautions to be taken. No further cases occurred at the nursery.

Dysentery

Eleven cases of dysentery occurred during the year. In October a boy living in an adjoining district but attending as a day boy at a residential preparatory school in this district was admitted to Cuckfield Hospital with a provisional diagnosis of appendicitis. The diagnosis was not confirmed but a specimen of stool was found to be positive for the organism causing Flexner dysentery and the boy was transferred to the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital. The boy's father, who is a butcher, was not allowed to return to work until two negative stools were obtained.

The Medical Adviser to the school informed your medical officer that three other boys had been slightly ill during the previous week but diarrhoea—a prominent symptom in Flexner dysentery—had not been marked. Arrangements were made for specimens to be taken from the three boys and the kitchen staff. The latter were all negative, but two of the boys were positive for the same organism and were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. As Flexner dysentery is much more common in countries across the channel than in this country, your medical officer enquired as to the number of boys who had been abroad during the summer holidays and was informed that the number was 9. Specimens were taken from these boys and the stool of one of these, who had been in Spain where Flexner dysentery is very common, was found to be positive for the Flexner organism although he had no symptoms while at school and stated that he had not been unwell whilst abroad. We cannot of course be sure, but it is possible that this boy, who was a carrier, may have brought the infection into the school.

The stool of one of the other boys who had been in Jamaica was positive for another organism which causes Sonne dysentery. Both the boys were regarded as being carriers and were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

No further cases occurred in the school.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

The Unit visited Haywards Heath during early October, 1958. I am indebted to Dr. Rigden, the Director, for the following analysis of the figures resulting from the Survey.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of persons X-rayed	482	709	1,191
Number recalled for large films	37	23	60

Analysis of abnormal large films:

(a) Tuberculosis requiring treatment or close clinical supervision	1	—	1
(b) Tuberculosis requiring occasional clinical supervision	2	4	6
(c) Malignant disease	1	—	1
(d) Cardio-vascular disease	3	—	3
Number (per 1,000 persons X-rayed) in Haywards Heath with tuberculosis requiring treatment or close clinical supervision ..			0.83

When the Unit last visited Haywards Heath in 1956, five cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered and the number (per 1,000 persons X-rayed) with active pulmonary tuberculosis was 3.3.

The Director's report on the work of the East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit during 1958 presents some interesting facts concerning the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in East Sussex. The number of cases requiring treatment or close clinical supervision (per 1,000 persons X-rayed) for the whole of East Sussex was 1.93 and the age and sex distribution of those with the most significant tuberculous lesions was as follows:—

Amongst both males and females there was a peak in the 16-25 age group, where the number of cases requiring treatment or close clinical supervision reached 2.49 per 1,000. The rate fell during the next decade and then rose steadily amongst males to a sharp peak in those aged 60 or over, where the number of cases requiring treatment or close clinical supervision reached 4.53 per 1,000.

The figures for the age group 16-25 emphasise the importance of the present policy whereby vaccination against tuberculosis (B.C.G.) is made available to young people before they leave the somewhat protected environment of the schools for workshops and offices. The scheme for B.C.G. vaccination is administered by the County Medical Officer.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND SMOKING

Lung cancer deaths in England and Wales:—

1940	..	..	5,000
1948	..	..	11,648
1952	..	..	14,218
1956	..	..	18,186
1958	..	..	19,809

This year there were 11 deaths from cancer of the lung in this district, five more than last year.

During the first half of this century the mortality due to cancer of the lungs has increased forty-fold. An eminent worker in this field considers that this increase has now reached epidemic proportions to the extent that 6 out of every 100 males die of this disease. In *heavy cigarette* smokers the mortality reaches 1 in 8. A steady increase in mortality from non-smokers to heavy smokers has also been reported in three other conditions.

- (1) Pulmonary tuberculosis
- (2) Chronic bronchitis
- (3) Peptic ulcer

In the case of tuberculosis it is thought that smoking may be an important cause of the breakdown of healed or quiescent respiratory tuberculosis in adults and may also account for a considerable part of the extensive male mortality in middle and late life. Although there would appear to be overwhelming evidence to incriminate cigarette smoking as one of the main causes of lung cancer it is perhaps too much to expect a hardened smoker to give it up completely and it is probably more important that the attention of young people should be directed towards the hazards of smoking in an endeavour to prevent them from adopting a habit which, once acquired, may be very difficult to break.

Your Medical Officer continued to pursue a policy of keeping young people and their parents informed on these matters by informal talks and discussions whenever the opportunity arose.

CORONARY DISEASE

Nearly 16 per cent. of all deaths in England and Wales were caused by this disease and there is no doubt that in the more highly developed countries its cause and prevention present a problem which merit a position alongside that of cancer. Speculations concerning causation are numerous and seem to point mainly to three different possibilities

- (a) Physical activity
- (b) Diet, particularly fat intake
- (c) Emotional stress

Recent figures relating to occupational mortality have shown that in men age 20-64 there was a very definite social class gradient in mortality with the highest mortality in social class I (professional occupations) and the lowest mortality in social classes IV and V (semi-skilled and unskilled occupations). To summarise, it would seem that at the present time many more people are engaged in sedentary occupations involving a minimum of physical effort and often the intake of food in such persons is greatly in excess of energy requirements. In such persons emotional stress may also play an important part in the development of this disease. In the prevention of such diseases as coronary thrombosis and carcinoma of the lung future control may well be in the hands of the individual citizen. In 1954 an eminent physician expressed the view that if the prophylaxis of diseases such as coronary thrombosis meant missing attractive things and practising austere measures the propaganda problems would become really formidable. I have no doubt that many people, when faced with these facts, may choose to take a chance rather than be made miserable by an excessive preoccupation with diet or by other restrictions, but a moderate attitude towards intake of food is not difficult to achieve and the improvement in health which usually results from such measures is surely well worth while.

HOUSING

The Council's five year Slum Clearance Programme originally comprised 33 houses, to which 5 have since been added. Seven were still occupied at the end of the year and six of these have not yet been represented to the Council owing to the fact that they are occupied by elderly people whom we would not wish to disturb unnecessarily.

During the year 3 were demolished; two were converted into one fit dwelling and one property was combined with a fit house in order to provide a satisfactory dwelling of more adequate size. Of the remaining houses, one was vacated and another made fit by the owner. Plans for the conversion of three terraced houses into two separate dwellings were also approved.

Mr. C. A. C. Ford, Housing Manager, has kindly furnished the following report on the Council's housing activities for the year.

The past year saw the number of post-war dwellings erected increased by another 26 units to 554. Including 67 prefabricated bungalows and 365 pre-war dwellings, the total properties erected on the Housing Estates now total 986.

The new dwellings completed during 1958 were as follows:—

Haywards Heath								
Boston Court	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Haywards Road	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Lindfield								
Eastern Road	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
								—
								26
								—

The types of dwelling erected comprised:

Houses with three bedrooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
„ two „	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Flats with two bedrooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ one „	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
„ one „ by conversion of older properties	..						4
							—
							26

In addition to meeting the needs of housing applicants by the erection of further dwellings, cases were dealt with as a result of 30 vacancies which occurred during the year in existing properties.

The system of offering to tenants more suitable accommodation by a transfer, in some instances to relieve overcrowding or to remedy under-occupation in existing dwellings, was also continued as properties became available for letting. 29 transfers were effected in the year putting still more dwellings to better use than previously. Two mutual exchanges were also made between tenants, in one case through the co-operation of the London County Council, which made it possible for two families to live closer to their places of employment.

100 new applications were registered during the year and 7 cases reinstated. 42 cases were deleted, the applicants having found accommodation privately. Allowing for the removal of 49 names as the result of the offer of accommodation by the Council the waiting list showed a slight increase of 20 applications over the previous year, namely 195 outstanding.

Amongst the new applications were 13 from persons affected by action being taken by landlords under the 1957 Rent Act but in only one case was it necessary for the Council to provide alternative accommodation although at the time of preparation of this report two further Court Orders had been made. This new legislation affecting the decontrol of larger properties has not so far presented any great problem in the Urban District.

No major works of maintenance of properties were carried out during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE

Our efforts to maintain the standards of food hygiene were continued during the year. In the second half of this Report Mr. Staynes, the Senior Public Health Inspector, has given details of improvements and repairs to food premises which have been carried out during 1958.

During the year your Medical Officer continued to give talks on Food Hygiene to Women's Institutes, Young Wives' Groups, etc., whenever the opportunity arose.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47. It was not necessary to take any formal action under Section 47 during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

(i) The water for the whole of the Urban District is supplied by the Mid-Sussex Joint Water Board. This was satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Monthly samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, and all were reported as being satisfactory.

(ii) The Board carried out monthly bacteriological examination of the raw water. The water was chlorinated after filtration.

(iii) The supply is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) There was no evidence of the supply being contaminated.

(v) Every house in the district is provided with a piped supply direct to the house.

On behalf of Dr. Stott, I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Staynes, Senior Public Health Inspector, for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and for the particulars which he has supplied for this report. I would also like to express my appreciation to other members of the staff for their loyal support during the year, particularly Miss Everson, my Secretary.

In conclusion, I am sure Dr. Stott would wish me to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee for their assistance during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Oaklands,
Boltro Road,
Haywards Heath, Sussex.
Tel. No.: Haywards Heath 1301.

D. M. RICHARDSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	WILLIAM B. STOTT, L.R.C.P. & S. (EDIN.), D.P.H. (CAMB.) Retired: 28.2.59 D. M. RICHARDSON, M.R.C.S., ENG., L.R.C.P., LOND., D.P.H., ENG. Appointed: 23.3.59 (Also <i>Medical Officer of Health to Cuckfield Rural and Burgess Hill Urban Districts</i>)
<i>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</i>		H. L. DUKE, O.B.E., M.D., SC.D. (CAMB.), D.T.M. AND HY. Retired: 28.2.59
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector</i>		R. STAYNES, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., <i>Certified Meat Inspector</i>
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector</i>	..	F. R. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., <i>Certified Meat Inspector</i>
<i>Secretary to the M.O.H.</i>	..	Miss G. L. EVERSON
<i>Clerk to the M.O.H.</i>	..	Miss J. M. LEWRY (26.3.59) Resigned Miss B. P. RACKHAM (23.3.59) Appointed
<i>Clerk to the S.P.H.I.</i>	..	Miss G. J. SHUTTLEWOOD (18.10.58) Resigned Miss D. M. ABBOTT (6.10.58) Appointed

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Statistics for the years:

	1956	1957	1958
Area of District in Acres..	3,912	3,912	3,912
Population estimated to middle of year	17,340	17,670	18,010
Rateable Value	£280,440	£276,602	£285,041
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£690 0s. 11d.	£1,172 17s. 10d.	£1,152 10s. 3d.
Density of Population (persons per acre)	4.43	4.52	4.60
Number of Houses ..	5,173	5,233	5,339
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	12.17	12.23	15.98
Death Rate per 1,000 population	16.44	17.60	9.25
Infant Mortality Rate ..	9.48	13.89	16.39

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Age</i>
1.	Broncho Pneumonia (Fibrocystic disease of pancreas) ..	6 months
2.	Pulmonary Haemorrhage (Prematurity)	1 week
3.	Cerebral Haemorrhage (Prematurity)	6 hours

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	6	13
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	31
18. Coronary disease, angina	28	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	9
20. Other heart disease	14	33
21. Other circulatory disease	5	14
22. Influenza	—	1
23. Pneumonia	11	10
24. Bronchitis	5	—
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	4	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34. All other accidents	—	4
35. Suicide	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Totals ..	121	182

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

	1959
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system .. (Coronary disease)	129 (42.6 %) 54 (17.8 %)
(ii) Cancer (All sites) (Cancer of lung and bronchus)	45 (14.8 %) 11 (3.6 %)
(iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous system	49 (16.2 %)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (including tuberculosis) .. (Respiratory tuberculosis)	36 (11.9 %) 2 (.6 %)

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Births and Birth Rate

The following table shows the Births registered for the year 1958:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	102 ..	128 ..	230
Illegitimate	4 ..	10 ..	14
	106 ..	138 ..	244

This gives a rate of 13.55 per 1,000 population.

The corrected birth rate is 15.98.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Stillbirths ..	3 ..	— ..	3
Legitimate	3 ..	— ..	3
Illegitimate	— ..	— ..	—

Deaths and Death Rate

The following table shows the Deaths registered for the year 1958:—

<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
121 ..	182 ..	303

This gives a mortality rate of 16.82 per 1,000 population.

The corrected death rate is 9.25.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

All milk and water samples, infectious disease and food poisoning specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton. Medical practitioners send the specimens direct to the Laboratory, and they receive the reports by telephone, a copy of such reports being sent to this office.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. E. Jameson, Medical Director, for his informative reports and helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are now removed by one of the British Red Cross Society's ambulances stationed at Lavender's Garage, Sussex Road, Haywards Heath.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

Twenty-six beds are available at the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital for the treatment of cases of infectious disease, twelve of these beds are in a cubicle block and the other fourteen in a block consisting of two main wards and side wards.

A table on page 18 gives particulars of admissions during the year.

Smallpox

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare Centres:

Cuckfield	Congregational Church Hall	2nd Friday Dr. each session
Haywards Heath ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands Haywards Heath	1st, 3rd and 4th Friday (Toddlers only 4th Friday) Dr. 3rd and 4th Friday
Bentswood	Presentation Church Hall New England Road, Haywards Heath	1st and 3rd Monday Dr. on 1st Monday
Lindfield	The Tiger, High Street	1st and 3rd Tuesday Dr. on 1st Tuesday

Clinics:

Diphtheria Immunisation ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath	2nd Monday 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Chest	Haywards Heath Hospital Cuckfield Hospital	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. (by appointment) Thursdays 2 p.m. Diagnostic
Orthopaedic ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Tuesday 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Friday 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m. 2-4.30 p.m. Dr. usually attends 2nd Thursday 2-4.30 p.m., very rarely 4th Thursday 2-4.30 p.m.
Speech Therapy ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Wednesday 9 a.m. Friday 9 a.m. (by appointment) Wednesday 9 a.m. Thursday 9 a.m. (by appointment)

Eye Refractions (Schoolchildren)	...	Haywards Heath Hospital	By appointment
Minor Ailments	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath	As required
Child Guidance	..	East Grinstead: Moat Road	Every Friday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
		Lewes: Castlegate House	Every Wednesday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
		Hove: 33 Clarendon Villas	Tuesday 10 a.m. Thursday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
		Burgess Hill: E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road	Every Monday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
Dental	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath	By appointment
School Clinic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Dr. Waugh (by appointment)
*Family Planning	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath	2nd and 4th Wednesday 2 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)
*Sub-Fertility	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Haywards Heath	1st Wednesday 2.15 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)
Venereal Diseases	..	Facilities are available at Royal Sussex County Hos- pital, Brighton	
		Men	Monday .. 4.30 p.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday .. 9.30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday .. 1.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m.
		Women and Children	Tuesday .. 1.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m. Thursday .. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday .. 9.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
		New cases must attend at least one hour before the Clinic closes	

* These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1944-1958

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	Number of Births						Birth Rate	Number of Deaths			Death Rate	Infants' Deaths			Infant Death Rate	Natural Increase of Births over Deaths
		Legitimate			Illegitimate				M	F	Total		M	F	Total		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total										
1944	14,500	122	119	241	13	16	29	18.62	80	115	195	7	2	9	33.33	75	
1945	14,260	91	99	190	9	15	24	15.00	83	92	175	3	2	5	23.36	39	
1946	14,820	113	116	229	9	8	17	16.60	93	102	195	3	3	6	24.39	51	
1947	15,130	133	134	267	5	6	11	18.37	78	113	191	4	5	9	32.37	87	
1948	16,290	109	96	205	8	11	19	13.75	68	100	168	3	1	4	17.86	56	
1949	16,370	114	99	213	6	8	14	13.87	91	109	200	3	3	6	26.43	27	
1950	16,776	101	82	183	9	10	19	12.04	93	114	207	3	2	5	24.75	-5	
1951	16,830	103	89	192	3	6	9	11.94	80	144	224	2	3	5	24.87	-23	
1952	16,940	93	99	192	4	8	12	12.04	88	106	194	-	1	1	4.90	10	
1953	17,010	95	96	191	6	5	11	11.88	101	173	274	4	1	5	24.75	-72	
1954	16,980	74	87	161	3	3	6	9.84	114	168	282	3	2	5	29.94	-115	
1955	17,090	88	91	179	7	3	10	11.06	107	171	278	-	1	1	5.29	-89	
1956	17,340	101	102	203	2	6	8	12.17	120	165	286	-	2	2	9.48	-75	
1957	17,670	110	93	203	8	5	13	12.23	151	160	311	1	2	3	13.89	-95	
1958	18,010	102	128	230	4	10	14	15.98	121	182	303	2	2	4	16.39	-59	

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS, 1937-58

Year	New Cases						Deaths						Number on Register at end of Year					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1937	4	5	9	3	2	5	1	2	3	-	-	-	24	27	51	8	8	16
1938	9	6	15	3	3	6	3	2	5	-	-	-	17	22	39	8	9	17
1939	4	4	8	3	2	5	3	1	4	-	-	1	16	25	41	7	11	18
1940	10	7	17	4	-	4	2	3	5	-	-	-	22	28	50	10	10	20
1941	5	10	15	1	5	6	2	1	3	2	2	-	25	33	58	9	15	24
1942	10	10	20	2	2	4	1	2	3	3	-	-	30	34	64	11	17	28
1943	10	10	20	2	2	4	1	2	3	3	-	-	32	33	65	12	18	30
1944	7	3	10	1	1	2	3	2	5	-	-	-	38	35	73	13	18	31
1945	7	3	10	1	3	4	4	1	5	-	-	-	38	35	73	13	19	32
1946	11	2	13	2	4	6	5	2	7	-	-	-	39	31	70	15	22	37
1947	4	2	6	1	1	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	37	28	65	13	21	34
1948	5	1	6	1	1	2	2	-	3	-	-	-	38	28	66	13	19	32
1949	8	6	14	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	41	33	74	12	19	31
1950	8	11	19	-	-	10	3	-	3	-	-	-	35	41	76	16	22	38
1951	14	10	24	6	4	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	46	49	95	16	24	40
1952	26	4	30	-	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	71	49	120	15	21	36
1953	12	4	16	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	81	53	134	15	20	35
1954	7	5	12	1	-	1	2	1	3	-	-	-	78	42	120	10	11	21
1955	4	4	8	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	78	44	122	9	12	21
1956	9	3	12	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	44	129	5	12	17
1957	3	5	8	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	76	43	119	5	9	14
1958	5	6	11	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	82	47	129	5	10	15

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1958

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	2	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	-	1	-	-
Totals	5	6	1	1	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Total Cases notified	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Scarlet Fever ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery ..	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	5	3	-
Food Poisoning ..	5	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	25	-	-	-	-
Measles ..	23	-	-	2	1	2	12	3	2	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	13	-	2	-	-	2	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ..	99	-	4	2	2	4	21	10	17	30	2	7	6	-

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL

I am indebted to the Matron, Miss J. M. Reid, for the following particulars of cases admitted during the year:—

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	East Grinstead Urban District	Uckfield Rural District	Other Districts	Total
Observation Poliomyelitis ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid B.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	10	5	-	-	1	3	19
Observation Dysentery ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
B. Coli Infection	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	6	8
Measles	-	-	-	4	-	1	5
Measles and Chickenpox ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	-	-	4	7
Mumps	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chickenpox	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Rubella	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tonsillitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pharyngitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Vincent's Angina	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	3	3	-	-	-	10	16
Total ..	28	10	1	4	1	28	72

The Cubicle Block allowed seventeen different diseases, observation cases or diseases with complications, to be dealt with.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The number of inspections made in the sanitary supervision of the district has been fairly consistent for some years. Again this year many of the visits were to food premises—745 to foodshops, 70 to bakehouses, 104 to hotels and restaurant kitchens—and in my opinion these regular routine visits are essential if standards already achieved are to be maintained and perhaps improved. Equipment wears out, changes of staff occur, business grows, new machines are installed, and with this continual change, constant visiting is necessary and much more effective than occasional prosecutions.

Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	381
Foodshops	..	..	..	..	..	745
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	70
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	92
Ice-cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	112
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	104
Primary Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	119
Primary Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	175
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	560
Housing (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	..	561
Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	46
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	44
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	60
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	109
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	3
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	41
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	9
*Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	1,413
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cattle Market	..	..	..	..	..	7
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	28
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	5
Heating Appliance (Fireguards) Act	..	..	..	..	..	9
Rag Flock Act	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	141
						<hr/> 4,851

* This figure includes 1,275 visits made by the Council's Rodent Operative

COMPLAINTS

Two hundred and seventy-four complaints as under were received and dealt with:—

Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	162
Nuisances from Drains	..	..	..	..	..	3
Offensive Smells	..	..	..	..	..	9
Defective Housing Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	1
Insect Pests (Wasps 73, ants 7, flies 3, bugs 1, silverfish 1, fleas 2)	..	..	..	..	..	87
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	12
						<hr/> 274

STATUTORY NOTICES

Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936

Served	1
Complied with by Owner	1

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936

Served	1
Complied with by Owner	1

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936

Complied with by Owner (Served in 1957).. ..	1
--	---

PRELIMINARY NOTICES

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Served 1958 and complied with</i>	<i>Complied with in 1958 but served in previous years</i>
Housing Act	24	11	3
Public Health Act	35	31	4
Food and Drugs Act	23	14	24
Factory Act	10	5	1
Milk and Dairies Regulations	1	1	—
Pests Act	3	3	1
Shops Act	7	6	1
Pet Animals Act	1	1	—
	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 34
Voluntary Works Supervised			23
Improvement Grants Supervised			18
			<hr/> 41

HOUSING

1. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) .. 275
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .. 1,348
- (2) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. 127
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .. 127
- (3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation and represented under the Housing Act .. 1
- (4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. .. 42

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	46
---	----

3. Number of New Houses erected during the year 1958:—

(1) State aided:—	
(a) By Local Authority	28
(b) By Public Utility	Nil
(2) Without State Aid	231

One house in respect of which an undertaking had been made was vacated, four were made fit and four were demolished.

A comparison between the "Standard of Unfitness" necessitating action by the local authority and the "Standard of Fitness" applicable to improved dwellings is interesting. The former states that a house is to be considered unfit only if it is so far defective in one or more of the following matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition:—

Repair; stability; freedom from damp; natural lighting; ventilation; water supply; drainage and sanitary conveniences; facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water.

The latter, for houses in respect of which a discretionary grant is made, requires that a house must, after improvement:—

Be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp; have each room properly lighted and ventilated; have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on in the dwelling; be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes; have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet; have a fixed bath (or shower) in a separate room; be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water; have a proper drainage system; be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric lighting (where reasonably available); be provided with adequate facilities for heating; have adequate facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food; and have proper facilities for storing fuel (where required).

The wide difference between the two standards will be obvious and it is true to say that very many houses in this district, although satisfying the first, fall far short of the second; indeed, some are even without means of artificial lighting in habitable rooms (mainly bedrooms).

I look forward to the day when the legally enforceable standard for all houses is one of fitness, comparable to that at present achieved by the aid of discretionary grants.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 23 applications for grants were received, 16 were approved, 1 approved in principle and 6 refused. In addition to the administrative and supervisory work in connection with formal applications and approvals, considerable time has been taken up with inspections and interviews with owners to advise on schemes. Not all of these interviews and inspections result in a formal application being submitted, but the saving of time and expense by advising where formal application will obviously not succeed is considerable.

Year	No. of Grants Approved	Owner Occupied	Tenanted	Actual Cost of All Works Including Repairs, etc.	Estimated Cost of Approved Works	Total Maximum Grant Approved	Actual Total Grant Paid
1954	3	3	—	£813 2 3	£596 9 2	£297 5 0	—
1955	27	17	10	£14,400 10 8	£11,857 12 4	£5,857 7 3	£1,042 5 10
1956	22	17	5	£14,755 14 6	£11,104 18 7	£5,335 12 7	£5,481 2 8
1957	12	9	3	£7,828 4 1	£6,109 3 10	£2,712 10 0	£6,094 17 8
1958	15	9	6	£8,325 13 10	£8,309 5 5	£4,145 0 0	£4,010 2 1
Totals	79	55	24	£46,123 5 4	£37,977 9 4	£18,347 14 10	£16,628 8 3

Where an improvement grant is made the owner is required to carry out any necessary repair works at his own expense. Although the total of the maximum grants approved so far was £18,347 14s. 10d. the actual amount expended on the properties exceeded £46,000. During the financial year 1958/59 the cost to the Council of all grants made from 1954 onwards was £190, or approximately £2 10s. per dwelling improved or provided.

CARAVANS

Three applications were received during the year for licences to erect and station moveable dwellings (trailer-type caravans) within the Urban District and all were approved for restricted periods.

RENT ACT, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair

Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. Three Notices by Local Authority to Landlord of proposal to issue Certificates of Disrepair were served; 5 Certificates were issued and one undertaking to carry out works was accepted.

Six applications for Cancellations of Certificates of Disrepair were received from landlords, three Certificates were cancelled and three, to which there were objections by tenants, were not cancelled. One application was received from a tenant for a Certificate as to the Remedying of Defects and a Certificate was issued.

Many enquiries were received but few resulted in applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	8	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	66	101	—	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	84	109	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	4	2	—	—	—
Totals ..	5	7	—	4	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel: Making, etc. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sections 15-44 Nil.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

Number of Certificates in force 18

When a request for additional means of escape at one factory has been complied with a Certificate of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire will be issued and all factories subject to this Section will then have been dealt with.

THE RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One upholsterer is registered under the above Act. All upholsterers' premises were visited during the year and were found to be satisfactorily maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	451	13	375	765	4,432	—
Number inspected ..	451	13	375	765	4,432	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases con- demned	—	1	—	1	8	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	20	4	1	30	1,686	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	4.43	38.46	0.26	4.05	38.22	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases con- demned	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	104	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	0.22	—	—	—	2.39	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	17	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Inspection

The wholesale slaughterhouse which has operated in this district since the resumption of private slaughtering in 1954 was closed on the 29th May, 1958, when the proprietors opened a new model slaughterhouse in an adjoining Rural District.

The slaughterhouse attached to a large hospital was closed down as from the 16th August, 1958, on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food withdrawing the facilities for the Deadweight Grading of Pigs.

Since then the inspection of meat has been confined to that exposed for sale in the butchers' shops within the district.

During the year 6,036 animals were slaughtered in the Urban District, the majority being inspected ante-mortem and all inspected post-mortem.

Three hundred and eighty-one visits to the slaughterhouses were made for the purpose of meat inspection and 1,875 condemnations involving almost 3 tons, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. of meat and offals were made.

Diseased condemned meat and offals were disposed of to firms who guaranteed that they would be sterilised and used for purposes other than human food, except in those cases where it was considered it should be destroyed.

Cysticercus Bovis

There was again an increase in the incidence of cysticercus bovis during the year, although the method of inspection was unchanged. The comparative percentages of infested animals is shown below.

1953	..	..	..	..	0.18 % incidence (3 cases)
1954	..	..	..	..	0.17 % incidence (2 cases)
1955	..	..	..	..	0.35 % incidence (3 cases)
1956	..	..	..	..	1.31 % incidence (15 cases)
1957	..	..	..	..	3.31 % incidence (38 cases)
1958	..	..	..	..	3.66 % incidence (17 cases)

Four carcasses were subjected to cold storage treatment after condemnation of the affected parts, and in the remaining thirteen instances, where only single degenerated cysts were found, the carcasses were passed after further careful examination and condemnation of the affected parts.

Since November, 1955, seventy-three carcasses affected with cysticercus bovis have been detected and in every case the farm from which the animal was sent for slaughter has been ascertained and the Public Health Inspector for that area informed.

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme—Deadweight Certification Centres

The Wholesale Slaughterhouse and the slaughterhouse attached to a large hospital were recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as Certification Centres for the deadweight grading of pigs, and the Public Health Inspectors were appointed Certifying Officers for the purpose of the Scheme. As previously stated, both slaughterhouses ceased to operate during the year, the wholesale slaughterhouse on the opening of new premises and the hospital slaughterhouse, which dealt mainly with pigs, on the withdrawal of the Deadweight Grading facilities by the Ministry. The Council received a fee for each pig graded at the Centres and since the inception of the scheme in August, 1954, the number of pigs graded and the income to the Council has been:—

					<i>Pigs Graded</i>	£	s.	d.
1954	..	..	..	..	315	15	15	6
1955	..	..	..	..	2,070	83	19	6
1956	..	..	..	..	3,342	108	7	0
1957	..	..	..	..	5,758	165	17	0
1958	..	..	..	..	3,596	100	2	0
Total					15,081	£474	1	0

Cost of Meat Inspection

The Government made a payment during the year for the inspection of meat for the year ended 31st March, 1958, to those areas where slaughtering of animals for export to other districts takes place and this Council received the sum of £84 4s. 3d.

FOOD PREMISES

The following tables show the number of food premises in the district, the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the number of inspections of such premises. I would point out that an inspection is counted once only for the purpose for which it is chiefly made, although the inspection will be comprehensive where the premises are subject to supervision for several purposes.

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Basement Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Hawkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Food Kiosks	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Hotels and Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	23

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Sale of Ice Cream:—							<i>Inspections</i>
Grocers	..	..	..	..	31	..	179
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	16	..	83
Cafes	..	..	..	..	5	..	47
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	3	..	16
Kiosks	3	..	3
Fishmongers	1	..	19
							<hr/>
							59 .. 347
							<hr/>

Preparation of Sausages:—

Butchers	14	..	153
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Preservation of Food (by cooking):—

Grocers	4	..	21
Bakehouses	3	..	38
Fried Fish Shops	2	..	16
							<hr/>
							9 .. 75
							<hr/>

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Dairies	6	..	<i>Inspections</i> 92
---------	----	----	----	----	---	----	--------------------------

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

The regular routine inspection of all food premises was continued throughout the year. Whilst it is true to say that food traders generally accept their responsibility under the above Regulations, compliance with the Regulations is mainly obtained by constant reminders at the time of inspection.

The following repairs, improvements, etc., to food premises were carried out:—

Sanitary convenience cleansed and repaired	1
Wash handbasins provided	6
Hot and cold water to wash handbasins provided ..	3
Soap, nailbrush and towels provided	1
Clothing storage provided	1
Hot and cold water to sink provided	1
Sinks renewed and cleansed	4
Ventilation improved	1
Repairs of walls, floors, ceilings, etc.	5
Redecoration and cleansing of walls, floors, ceilings, etc.	12
Refrigerated display counters provided	2
Protection of food from risk of contamination ..	7
Surfaces repaired or renewed	2

Meat Pies

It is regretted that the Minister of Food has turned down a proposal by local authorities that manufacturers should be required by law to mark meat pies with the date of manufacture. The Council will recollect that Dr. Stott had for some years been urging that this be done.

A man made ill through eating part of a meat pie, sold wrapped, brought the remains to my office. The meat was “furred” and there was green mould on the pastry. Investigations revealed that the pie was six days old at the time of sale.

The date of manufacture on meat pies would enable retailers to refuse to accept old pies and the public generally would be unlikely to purchase pies several days old.

Condemnations of Food

During the year there were 31 condemnations of food involving:—

Shell fish, 4doz.	Meat (tinned), 70lbs.
Fruit (tinned), 46lbs.	Preserves and Fruit pulp, 38lbs.
Milk (tinned), 18pts.	Potatoes, 224lbs.
Vegetables (tinned), 5lbs.	Fish, 209lbs.
Meat (fresh), 16lbs.	Lemon juice, 6lbs.

MILK SUPPLY

The following registrations were operative during 1958:—

Dairies	6
Distributors	15
Dealers licensed to sell T.T. milk	10
Dealers licensed to sell Pasteurised milk	9
Dealers licensed to sell Sterilised milk	7

Milk is produced at eight farms in the district, from one of which milk is sold by retail.

SAMPLING

Type of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	42	—	42	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised ..	75	1	76	—	—	—
T.T. Farm Bottled ..	44	3	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	2	—
Totals ..	161	4	118	—	2	—

Seventy samples of cows' milk and one of goat's milk were submitted for biological test, 70 being free from tubercle bacilli (1 guinea pig died too early for a result to be obtained), but three contained *Br. abortus*. These three samples were from 2 farms in the adjoining Rural District and sent to a pasteurising establishment here. Milks sent to pasteurising plants were sampled twice during the year and milk sold raw, three times during the year. Since 1946, 661 samples of milk have been submitted for biological examination and all have been reported as negative for tubercle bacillus.

Two complaints of sediment in bottles of T.T. Farm Bottled Milk occurred within ten days of each other. In the first complaint only one bottle was noticed by the distributor to be contaminated but the wholesale distributor of the milk was warned. The second complaint by a purchaser resulted in a check on all milk being brought into depots here on that day, and all the milk from one producer's farm was found to contain sediment. The wholesaler immediately cancelled any further supplies from this farm and the farmer was required to descale and thoroughly clean his plant. No complaints have since been received about this supply.

ICE CREAM

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream in this district. Sixty-one premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, fifty-two being restricted to the sale of wrapped ice cream.

During 1958 one hundred and two samples of ice cream were submitted to bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

GRADES			
I	II	III	IV
74	28	—	—

Complaint was made of the staining of ice cream by the condensate from the lid of a conservator and resulted in a check on all conservators. The majority were satisfactory, but in a few cases retailers were warned to exercise care and also required to have the lids renewed.

Below is a table showing the results of bacteriological examination of ice cream samples for the ten years 1949-1958:—

Month	No. of Samples 1949-58	Methylene Blue Decolourised in hours										Grades			
		0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	over 4	I	II	III	IV
January	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	14	14	3	—	—
February	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	10	15	15	11	—	—
March	44	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	30	30	12	1	1
April	68	—	—	—	2	—	3	4	4	11	44	44	22	2	—
May	92	2	1	—	2	3	2	3	13	10	56	56	28	6	2
June	90	1	—	1	2	2	6	15	2	12	49	49	35	5	1
July	86	—	2	1	3	3	1	9	—	10	57	57	20	9	—
August	86	1	—	—	3	2	2	14	3	15	46	46	34	5	1
September	86	1	1	1	5	6	8	6	7	17	34	34	38	13	1
October	77	—	—	—	2	6	5	6	1	13	44	44	25	8	—
November	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	32	32	11	—	—
December	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	11	11	9	—	—
Totals	735	6	5	3	19	22	27	60	40	121	432	432	248	49	6

The table indicates that of 735 samples of ice cream taken during the last ten years approximately 92.5% were placed in grades I and II, 6.7% in grade III and 0.8% in grade IV. This is an excellent result having regard to the fact that the majority of the samples were taken in the warmer months, and that any in grades III and IV were rapidly “followed up” by further samples.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

There were 162 complaints of rat or mouse infestation during the year, compared with 130 in 1956 and 245 in 1957. As a result, work was done at 310 premises, all with minor infestations, as against 357 in 1957. In addition, a further 7,976 premises in the district were subjected to a routine survey. A total of 175 dead rats were found during the year.

The annual maintenance treatment of the Council's foul sewers was carried out during June, no evidence of infestation by rats being noted.

The poison most generally used is Warfarin. Where infestations can be dealt with by gas, cyanide is used and as a precautionary measure the Operative carries with him antidotes of the poison.

INFESTATIONS

The public seek the assistance of the Health Department in dealing with infestations of all kinds and where possible this is given. Wasps are dealt with by either liquid insecticide or Cymag and when possible the nests removed. The operator is allowed to use his discretion as to whether or not he can in safety deal with wasps' nests and if there is obvious risk declines to do so. A charge to cover the cost of this work is made.

Number of infestations dealt with:—

Ants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Fleas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Flies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wasps	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Silverfish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
								—
								86
								—

The complaint of fleas was made by the purchaser of a piece of second-hand furniture which had been accepted in part-exchange for new furniture. All the old furniture affected was destroyed and the room treated. As a further precaution, the furniture in the showrooms which had been carried in the same van as the infested articles was also treated. The Public Health Inspector of the district from which the second-hand furniture had been obtained was notified and he reported that the house had been disinfested of fleas.

DISINFECTIONS

Twelve premises were disinfested after infectious diseases.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

The maintenance of certain public house conveniences at the Council's expense in return for their availability to the public throughout the day was continued.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One shop is registered under the above Act for the sale of pet animals, and during the year four visits were made to the premises.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

Nine shops were visited in connection with the enforcement of the above Act. All appliances tested conformed to the required standard.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

104 inspections of shops were made in connection with the health and comfort of shop workers and several minor improvements were effected as a result of verbal requests.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

One application for approval of a boiler plant and two notices of intention to install furnaces were received during the year.

In all new council houses and houses subject of improvement grants, solid fuel burning appliances approved by the Coal Utilisation Council are insisted upon as no grant for the replacement of such appliances will be available should this area at some future date be declared a smoke control area. Builders and prospective purchasers of new houses should take note of this.

